

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANJUL 00529 180955Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-08 /082 W

-----181235Z 120150 /17

R 180855Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4248

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAKAR BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANJUL 0529

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GA

SUBJ: NEW GAMBIAN CABINET

REF: BANJUL 0510

1. DISPLAYING CUSTOMARY POLITICAL SAVY AND SHREWD MANIPULATION OF HIS PARTY LEADERS, PRESIDENT JAWARA HAS PUT TOGETHER NEW CABINET WHICH BALANCES TRIBAL AFFILIATIONS, INTRODUCES SOME NEW BLOOD, RETIRES TWO OLDER UNPOPULAR MINISTERS, AND GIVES SOME PROMISE OF MORE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

2. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER A. B. N'JIE, HAS BEEN KICKED UPSTAIRS TO VICE PRESIDENCY, BUT IN ABSENCE OF MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO HAS FEW APPARENT ASSIGNED DUTIES. HIS REPLACEMENT IN MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, JABANG, IS RATHER INEFFECTUAL DANDY, WHO WILL LARGELY DO AS HE IS TOLD. PRESIDENT MAY WANT TO EXERT GREATER PERSONAL CONTROL OVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OR MAY USE N'JIE AS PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN. NET RESULT OF THIS CHANGE IS THAT UNPOPULAR ELDERLY (AGE ABOUT 73) WOLOF HAS BEEN EASED OUT OF DEMONSTRABLE POWER, AND REPLACED BY WEAK, MALLEABLE ELEMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANJUL 00529 180955Z

3. OTHER UNPOPULAR OLD WOLOFS DROPPED FROM CABINET ARE GARBA-JAHUMPA (WHO LOST SEAT) AND SIR ALIEU JACK (NOMINATED MEMBER). NEW MINISTER OF FINANCE IS PLEASANT AND FRIENDLY, BUT CARRIES NO GREAT WEIGHT. IN CONTRAST TO PREDECESSOR, HE WILL BE LED BY MORE POWERFUL CABINET COLLEAGUES.

4. CAMARA, NEW MINNSTER OF EDUCATION STEPS DOWN AS VICE

PRESIDENT, BUT WILL TAKE OVER MINISTRY STILL SEETHING FROM BOMBAST AND ARBITRARY HAND OF M. C. CHAM. CAMARA WILL BE DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT OVER CHAM, AND SHOULD CALM STRONG CHRISTIAN FACTION IN EDUCATION WHICH WAS CONSTANTLY ROILED BY CHAM'S MILITANT PUSHING OF ISLAM. CHAM WILL TAKE OVER KEY MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING, A MOVE WHICH WILL MAKE OR BREAK THIS SHREWD, ARROGANT, POORLY EDUCATED UP-RIVER FULA. SPARKS WILL FLY IN ECONOMIC PLANNING, BUT THEY MAY STRIKE MORE HEAT THAN LIGHT.

5. NEW MINISTERS JALLOW AND SEMEGA-JANNEH ARE BEING PROMOTED FOR PAST FAITHFUL SERVICE. FORMER IS SOLID, FORCEFUL LEADER WHO SHOULD EXERT MUCH STRONGER INFLUENCE THAN DEFEATED KALILOU SINGHATEH WHO OFTEN GAVE APPEARANCE OF BUFFOON. SEMEGA-JANNEH IS COLORFUL GADFLY WHO COULD PROVE TO BE CHALLENGING SPOKESMAN FOR GOVERNMENT.

6. LEIGH IS MANDINKA ELDER WHO BALANCES AMBITIOUS CEESAY. HE HAS SCANT FORMAL EDUCATION BUT VAST KNOWLEDGE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND UP-RIVER POLITICS. SANYANG IS UNKNOWN QUANTITY IN PUBLIC WORKS, WHICH WILL TEST HIS AS YET UNDEMONSTRATED ABILITIES TO UTMOST.

7. YAYA CEESAY EMERGES AS CLEAR LEADER OF MANDINKA ELEMENT IN GOTG. HE WILL BE WATCHED FOR ANY FLIRTATION WITH DIBBA, WHICH COULD SIGNAL MAJOR GOVERNMENT CRISIS BETWEEN MANDINKAS (ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF GAMBIA'S POPULATION) AND OTHER TRIBES.

8. PRESIDENT JAWARA HAS CLEVERLY SELECTED THREE YOUNG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANJUL 00529 180955Z

NEWLY-ELECTED MPS TO KAY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY POSITIONS, INCLUDING EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. THIS IS NOTABLE GESTURE TO WELL EDUCATED YOUNGER GENERATION THAT HAS BEEN CHAFFING UNDER AGING PPP LEADERSHIP WHICH HAS HARDLY CHANGED SINCE EARLY 1960S.
WYGANT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANJUL00529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770133-1046
Format: TEL
From: BANJUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770448/aaaabprk.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 21cccb3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANJUL 510
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2780463
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW GAMBIAN CABINET
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, GA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/21cccb3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009